



## **“A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS”, APRIL 18th, WILL RAISE AWARENESS OF CHILD ABUSE**

***Luminaries are available for  
sponsorship now***

April is recognized nationwide as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Unfortunately, Catawba County lost the lives of three children in 2008 to child abuse. One of the largest numbers in past history and, if current news reporting is any indication, child neglect and abuse is on the rise in North Carolina and around the nation this year.

A community event "A Light in the Darkness" will take place on Saturday, April 18th in Downtown Newton. Caring citizens, families, and area community leaders are invited to attend this free event open to the public. The ceremony, sponsored by the Children's Protection Council, is meant to raise awareness of the magnitude of child abuse in our community.

The UMYF-Youth of Friendship United Methodist Church will be lighting luminaries around the square at the old courthouse in remembrance of the many children that have died around the country from child abuse. The luminaries are part of a fundraiser effort that these youth have been involved in to raise money for the Children's Protection Council to continue their efforts on awareness, education, and prevention of child abuse in Catawba County.

If you would like to sponsor a luminary, please contact Friendship UMC at 828-464-5408 for additional information. They are \$10 each with all proceeds to CPC.

The event will commence at the courthouse with speakers from the Children's Protection Council, Friendship UMC Youth, and others impacted by child abuse and how they have overcome their adversity through the help of others.

Among the events scheduled, a service of healing and praise are planned at Abernathy Memorial UMC on N. Main Ave in Newton at 6:30pm. The event will close with the lighting of the luminaries and prayer in the Downtown Square approximately at 8:30pm. Please support this event with your prayers, donations and attendance. It is for a great cause and we are sure you will be blessed by being a part of this special event.